

POPULAR CULTURE IN KARNATAKA

1. INTRODUCTORY

KARNATAKA is the Sanskrit form of Kannada which is the name of the country now covered by the State of Mysore and a surrounding area as also of the language spoken by the majority of the people living in this country. The earliest known rhetorician and poet of Kannada states that the language was then spoken in the country between the Cauvery and the Godavari and that the heart of the Karnataka was a place in what now is Dharwar District. The language has lost in prestige and currency in recent times, the margin of the country in which it is spoken having* shrunk, and the centre shifted a little to the south. What is worse the area has been split into five parts under five different administrations. The largest of these divisions is the State of Mysore.

It is a beautiful country lying on both sides of the Western Ghats, stretching on the east to within a hundred and fifty miles of the Bay of Bengal and touching on the west the Arabian Sea. On the south it ends in a mighty concourse of hills which on account of the colour it wears to the eye from a distance has been called "Nilagiri" or Blue Mountain.

The country is traversed by many a stream and river which *-clp cultivation and support a busy and thrifty

population. In the majestic and forest-clad
peaks of
the Western Ghats and the chasms through
which the

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